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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL 1998

JFK ACT
09-18-98
RELEASE

SECRET

OTE 92-1403
10 February 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Director of Training and Education
Director, Center for the Study of Intelligence

FROM: J. Kenneth McDonald
Chief, CIA History Staff

SUBJECT: Survey of CIA's Records from House Select Committee on Assassinations Investigation

1. As you requested on 16 January, the History Staff has now surveyed CIA's records from the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. As promised in my 30 January interim report, I can now give you a full account of our findings, and of my recommendation for transferring this HSCA collection at its existing classification to the National Archives through CIA's Historical Review Program.

2. After the Office of Congressional Affairs arranged permission from Congress for History Staff access to the sequestered 64 boxes of this collection, we examined these and other related holdings at Headquarters and the Warrenton Records Center. As a result of careful, persistent, and determined inquiries, we are fairly confident--although by no means certain--that we have seen all the documents that CIA collected for the HSCA investigation of 1977-1979. The summary of our findings which follows is documented in more detail in attachments A and B.

3. General Description: The HSCA collection (defined as all records that the CIA provided to that Committee for its 1977-1979 investigation) is a large and chaotic collection. Beyond the 64 boxes sequestered by Congress that have been involved in FOIA litigation, there are 16 boxes of Oswald's 201 file and numerous loose folders (mainly from Mexico City Station records) that were collected for the Warren Commission investigation. Most of this material can be found on microfilm in the sequestered collection. Of the 64 boxes, 34 have material collected by the Directorate of Operations, while

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29 contain records from the Office of Legislative Counsel (now OCA), Inspector General, Office of the General Counsel, Directorate of Science and Technology, Office of Security, as well as several boxes of HSCA staff notes and records. Box No. 64 contains 72 microfilm reels (each equivalent to a box of records), which include the Oswald 201 file and Mexico City Station records, as well as other 201 files and information about Cuban exile groups.

4. Organization: The collection is arranged haphazardly, having been gathered in response to a series of HSCA and (in the case of the Oswald 201 file) Warren Commission requests. Although portions of the collection are organized by a variety of systems, there is no overall intellectual control of the entire body of records. We found fifteen indexes to the collection, none of which is adequate for control or retrieval.

5. Sensitivity: Although the collection is almost entirely at SECRET or lower classification, there is a scattering of TOP SECRET and codeword documentation. Materials we consider especially sensitive--more for privacy than national security reasons--include 201 files, phone taps, mail intercepts, security files, photo surveillance, names of sources, watch lists, and MHCHAOS documentation. Such material occurs throughout the collection, usually in response to HSCA requests for name traces. There are 22 microfilm reels of 201 files in addition to the Oswald file, while eight boxes contain security records, including, for example, files on David Atlee Phillips, Martin Luther King, and Clay Shaw.

6. Non-CIA Material: The collection includes a lot of third-agency material, mostly from the FBI. FBI reports dominate the 16 boxes of Oswald's 201 file, and nearly half of the 34 boxes of DO-collected material consists of third-agency material. The collection's remaining 29 boxes contain mostly CIA records, as does the box of microfilm, except for Oswald's 201 file. There is also some documentation of foreign liaison, mainly with the Mexican government.

7. CIA Complicity? Our survey found nothing in these records that indicates any CIA role in the Kennedy assassination or assassination conspiracy (if there was one), or any CIA involvement with Oswald. These records do reveal, however, that Clay Shaw was a highly paid CIA contract source until 1956. While nothing surfaced on Carlos Marcello in the collection, we found substantial documentation on other members of the mob, including Santos Trafficante.

8. Although the results of our survey fully support my earlier recommendation against inviting a panel of historians

into CIA to examine and report on this collection, the problem that this proposal addressed remains--the widespread allegations, given new impetus by Oliver Stone's "JFK," that CIA was part of a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy. That CIA has a closed collection of records concerning the Kennedy assassination is well known, both because it is part of over 800 cubic feet of HSCA investigation records that Congress has closed until 2029, and because our 64 boxes of these records have been the subject of FOIA requests, litigation, and court orders. Since opening all US Government records on the Kennedy assassination has been proposed by former President Ford, Congressman Louis Stokes, and others, many observers will consider your decision on this question a test of your new openness policy.

9. Options: CIA's three principal options are to keep the Agency's HSCA records closed and in our hands, to open them entirely, or to transfer them to the National Archives. Before making my case for the third option, I should note the following considerations with respect to the first two:

a. Closed: To maintain the status quo would keep the collection classified, closed and in CIA's hands, sequestered by Congress until 2029. CIA would, however, remain subject to the 1988 court order to review portions of it in response to FOIA litigation. While putting the collection into Historical Review Program processing would speed and broaden its declassification review (which would nevertheless take several years), such an internal shift would probably not change the public perception of our closed position. Although keeping these records closed remains a viable option, it tends both to encourage suspicion that CIA is part of a cover-up, and to undermine the credibility of CIA's openness policy. If Congress should decide to open all HSCA records, however, CIA would be hard put to keep its HSCA collection closed.

b. Opened: To open the HSCA collection would require the permission of Congress. Indeed, CIA would presumably not consider this option except in response to congressional action or pressure, or in order not to be the last hold-out in a Government-wide opening of Kennedy assassination records. While opening the collection would disclose a good deal of information that deserves continued protection for privacy or national security reasons, a total release would dramatically demonstrate CIA's new openness, and rapidly reveal that these records contain nothing pointing to a CIA role in the Kennedy assassination.

10. Recommendation: I recommend that CIA transfer its entire HSCA collection (as defined and identified in this report) at its existing classification to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), for continuing declassification review by Archives staff, in accordance with the relevant laws, regulations and CIA guidelines. This transfer should be carried out under the auspices of CIA's Historical Review Program. To retire this HSCA collection to the National Archives offers some significant advantages:

a. It would get the collection off our hands. Retiring the records to the National Archives, which is by law the eventual repository for all permanent US Government records, should reduce public suspicion of a CIA cover-up. Such a transfer would not set a new precedent, since CIA has previously retired over 4000 cubic feet of Office of Strategic Services operational records to NARA, as well as all CIA records so far declassified under the Agency's Historical Review Program. Although CIA has not previously transferred classified records to NARA, the transfer of this HSCA collection, resulting from a congressional investigation, follows the special precedent of the classified CIA documents retired to NARA's vaults as part of the records of the Watergate and Iran-Contra investigations.

b. Transferring these HSCA records to the National Archives will protect their existing classification. The Departments of State and Defense have routinely retired classified records to NARA for years. In accordance with statutory guidelines, NARA must ensure the confidentiality of investigatory sources and the proper protection of personal privacy and national security information, including intelligence sources and methods. NARA would continue the court-ordered declassification review according to CIA guidelines. CIA can accelerate the declassification of this collection by funding review positions at NARA, as the Department of State and other agencies have done in the past. (Attachment C outlines declassification procedures for classified records retired to the National Archives.)

c. NARA's professional archivists will bring this collection under control (as they have done with the 4000 cubic feet of disorganized OSS records that CIA has retired since 1984), so that it can be usefully researched as it is declassified. Moreover, many of the records in this collection (especially photographs, carbon flimsies, and Thermofax) need expert preservation, which NARA is organized to provide.

d. If Congress should eventually undertake to open this entire collection without regard to classification, the National Archives will be in a stronger position to protect its national security and privacy information than the CIA, whose motives would appear self-serving, if not sinister.

11. Action: If you wish to retire the Agency's House Select Committee on Assassinations collection to the National Archives, the following actions (from the offices noted) will be needed:

a. Request permission from Congress. (Office of Congressional Affairs)

b. Transfer responsibility for court-ordered FOIA declassification review from CIA to the National Archives. (Office of the General Counsel, with Information Management Staff, DO)

c. Prepare CIA guidelines for NARA's declassification review. (Office of Information Technology, DA)

d. Prepare the appropriate Historical Review Program documentation and NARA forms, and deliver the records. (Office of Information Technology, DA)

e. Announce the transfer jointly with Dr. Don Wilson, Archivist of the United States, and Congressman Louis Stokes. (Public Affairs Office)

/s/ J. Kenneth McDonald

J. Kenneth McDonald

Attachments

SUBJECT: Survey of CIA's Records from House Select Committee
on Assassinations Investigation

DA/OTE/CSI/HS JKMcD:nkl (10 Feb 92) 30147

Distribution:
Orig Addressee w/atts
1 - Paul Ericson, D/OTE w/atts
1 - James A. Barry, D/CSI, w/atts
1 - Page Moffett, DD/OCA w/atts
1 - Joe Detrani, D/PAO w/atts
1 - John Hedley, DD/PAO w/atts
1 - David Gries, VC/NIC w/atts
1 - Don Cryer, DD/IMS/DO w/atts
1 - Jack Wright, D/ISD/OIT
1 - HS Chrono w/o atts
1 - HS Subject (Kennedy Assassination) w/atts
1 - DCI Correspondence w/atts

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SUMMARY
CIA HISTORY STAFF SURVEY
House Select Committee on Assassinations Collection

10 February 1992

The House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) Collection consists of the following parts, which the attached box list describes in further detail:

1. Sequestered HSCA Records The first and major part of the collection, 64 boxes of records under Job No. 80-T01357A, is wide-ranging material collected in response to House Select Committee on Assassinations requests for documents relating to the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and, to a far lesser extent, Dr. Martin Luther King. Coordinated by the Office of Legislative Counsel (now the Office of Congressional Affairs) and now under OCA control, these are the "sequestered" boxes that have been the subject of FOIA litigation and court order.

a. Boxes 1-34; DO Boxes 1-34 (34 cu. ft. of records) are about one-half DO-collected materials, with the remainder largely of third agency documents, primarily FBI reports gathered for the Warren Commission. There is also some material from the Department of State and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, as well as the original HSCA requests. Also included are staff handwritten notes, photographs, and copies of newspaper clippings. These records cover a wide variety of topics but focus on CIA operations against Cuba and Castro, Lee Harvey Oswald's sojourn in the USSR, Oswald's activities in Mexico City and New Orleans, and a large number of name traces requested by the HSCA staff. There is also material on the Black Panthers, the civil rights movement, and the peace movement. Among the subjects that appear in these boxes are: Jack Ruby, Clay Shaw, Frank Sturgis, E. Howard Hunt, Nosenko, Guy Bannister, David Ferrie, Silvia Duran, Martin Luther King, Coretta Scott King, James Earl Ray, William Kunstler, Jim Garrison, G. P. Hemming, Marina Oswald, John Roselli, Sam Giancana, Santos Trafficante, and Rolando Cubela's AMLASH operations against Castro. These records also include the 1967 Inspector General's report on CIA plots against Castro and the testimony of Richard Helms in executive session before HSCA.

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b. Boxes 35-63 Boxes 35 through 63 in this job (29 cu. Ft. of records) are equally eclectic, divided as they are between records from the Office of Legislative Counsel (now OCA), Inspector General, Office of the General Counsel, Directorate, of Science and Technology, Office of Security (security files), and the HSCA itself. These records, which are mostly CIA material (heavily DO), consist of reports, memoranda, transcripts, cables, letters, newspaper clippings, photographs, and charts. They include materials relating to the Garrison investigation, Watergate, Cuban exile activities, and CIA attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro. There is also some material relating to Martin Luther King, black power, and racial violence, as well as a DS&T report on photos of the "unknown man" at the Mexico City Soviet embassy, and an NPIC analysis of the Zapruder film.

c. Box 64: Microfilm Box 64 of Job. No. 80-T01357A contains 72 reels of microfilm (although the box is labeled "CIA/DDO HSCA Records, box 1 of 2," box 2 has not been found). The History Staff was assured, however, that this was indeed box 64 of Job No. 80-TO1357A. In addition to a copy of Oswald's 201 file (as actually shown to the HSCA staff in 1978), the microfilm contains material on Oswald's activities in Mexico City (primarily photographic and phone tap surveillance of the Soviet and Cuban embassies and consulates), Mexico City Station files (including cable traffic and the station's "P" Personality files), CIA security files, Nosenko interrogation transcripts, and a great deal of information relating to Cuban exile groups. There are also 22 reels of 201 files, which contain 151 individual files. Some of the material on these microfilm reels reproduces DO material in the boxes, although it is difficult to judge exactly how much.

2. Oswald's 201 File The second part of the HSCA collection is Lee Harvey Oswald's 201 file, 16 boxes (16 cu. ft. of records) held in the DO's Information Management Staff (IMS). This file consists primarily of copies of FBI reports relating to Oswald, FBI investigations on Oswald and his activities (including items that FBI sent CIA prior to the assassination), interviews with Marina Oswald, Department of State cable traffic concerning Oswald's passport and visa applications, information tracing Oswald's weapons, material on Jack Ruby and Silvia Duran, and a tape of Oswald's August 1963 radio debate. There are also detailed FBI reports concerning Oswald's assassination of the President and his contacts with Soviet officials, as well as records relating to Gilberto Alvarado, who maintained that he witnessed Cubans passing Oswald cash at a party on the night before the assassination.

3. Loose Files The HSCA collection's third part comprises a number of loose folders that evidently belong within the collection, including eight bulky Mexico City Station files (including cable traffic and "P" files) that are also in the microfilm. These files are considered to be part of the Oswald 201 file and are held in IMS. A group of 16 file folders that appear to be unaccessioned contain a miscellany of HSCA requests and Agency responses on subjects such as Oswald in the USSR, Marina Oswald, Roselli, and Giancana. These appear to belong with Job. No. 80-T01357A.

4. Organization Partly because of the collection's origins in the disorderly process of the Agency's response to massive investigatory committee requests, the collection badly organized. Moreover, years of working through these files in response to numerous Freedom of Information Act requests have disrupted the collection further. More importantly, however, the Agency has not taken intellectual control of the collection in the fifteen years since it was created. Partial systems of organization have been imposed upon various parts of the collection without reference to or use of sound archival principles and procedures. Although 15 separate (and unsatisfactory) indexes to the collection eventually surfaced, the lack of any central index or finding aid makes retrieval of individual documents extremely difficult. Although CIA review officers attempted to impose some order to the collection by numbering each document and adding a folder numbering system to each box, there is no central control or finding aid for any of these these systems. Provenance cannot be traced, and entire files are missing that cannot be satisfactorily accounted for.

5. Non-record Copies This collection consists for the most part of xeroxed copies rather than original documents. We suspect that the originals of many, if not most, of these xeroxed documents would be difficult if not impossible to locate.

6. Preservation Much of the material throughout the collection, especially thermofax copies and photos, is fragile and in poor physical condition, requiring immediate attention to prevent further deterioration.

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BOX LIST OF FILES REVIEWED
CIA HISTORY STAFF SURVEY
House Select Committee on Assassinations Collection

10 February 1992

Job No. 80-T01357A

Box 1: CIA Security files on numerous individuals, including G. P. Hemming, Martin Luther King, Marina Oswald, and others; 1967 CIA IG report on plotting against Castro; Garrison investigation. (File folders 6, 7, 17 and 20 are missing).

Box 2: CIA Security files on William D. Pawley, Frank Sturgis, Jack Ruby, Clay Shaw, and others; numerous FBI documents and assorted CIA material.

Box 3: Helms hearing testimony; Mexico City Station cable traffic; CIA, FBI, Warren Commission, and HSCA correspondence.

Box 4: Chronology of Lee Harvey Oswald's sojourn in the USSR: CIA operations against Cuba, Castro, and the Cuban Intelligence Service, including information relating to ZRRIFLE, AMLASH, AMMUG; description of CIA 201 system; information on Nosenko interrogation regarding Oswald and his Soviet connections. (File folder 8 is missing).

Miss filed

Box 5: Notes on Oswald; various HSCA notes and affidavits; transcripts of Helms's testimony; FOIA information.

Box 6: Information relating to Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico City, including surveillance from CIA projects LIEMPTY, LILYRIC, and LIMITED: Garrison investigation; CIA support to Warren Commission; AMMUG debriefing; copies of Mexico City Station despatches (HMMA); sensitive material on photocoverage of Soviet, Cuban, Czech, and Polish embassies in Mexico City; an index to HSCA papers held by CIA; an index of Warren Commission exhibits; information relating to Silvia Duran; a copy of an agreement between the Director and Chairman Louis Stokes requiring the CIA to retain for 30 years all materials gathered in response to Committee requests; Richard Helms executive session testimony in 1978 before the committee; an index to requests to the CIA from J. Lee Rankin of the Warren Commission.

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Box 7: Mexico City Station surveillance of Cuban, Soviet embassies; AMMUG; Silvia Duran; Oswald's activities in New Orleans (FBI report); monthly operations reports from Mexico City Station; summaries of HMMA cables; Cuban exile mug books; Gilberto Alvarado, the Nicaraguan who claimed he saw Lee Harvey Oswald receive cash in meeting inside Mexico City Cuban embassy; transcripts of phone calls to and from Soviet embassy; a machine listing of documents officially recorded as being in Oswald's 201 file (list missing from folder); Warren Commission trip to Mexico City and interview with U.S. Ambassador Thomas Mann; Jack Ruby; Fair Play for Cuba Committee; FBI reports on Oswald; HTLINGUAL documents; Nosenko interviews; and interview of Mexico City Station personnel by committee staff. (File folder 37 is missing).

Box 8: HSCA requests primarily for name traces involving individuals, including James Earl Ray, Clay Shaw, John Roselli, Sam Giancana, Santos Trafficante; 1977 CIA study on Church committee findings relating to the CIA; HSCA requests to interview CIA personnel; ZRRIFLE; information relating to the Cuban airline flight from Mexico City to Havana; Nosenko interviews; photos of anti-Castro individuals.

Box 9: Primarily HSCA requests for name traces on individuals and organizations; CIA surveillance operations in Mexico City; copies of cable traffic from Mexico City Station. (File folder 76 missing).

Box 10: Name traces from 201 files, HTLINGUAL mail intercepts, and MHCHAOS files, including individuals associated with Black Panthers, Students for a Democratic Society, the civil rights movement, Ramparts, and the peace movement. Material on Henry Winston, Maurice Halperin, George Edward Wright, Julian Bond, William Kunstler, James Earl Ray. Also Lee Harvey Oswald and Jim Garrison.

Box 11: Misc. items on JFK assassination; HSCA material, including personal history of Nosenko and Oswald chronology.

Box 12: HSCA chronologies 1976-78; draft reviews and CIA comments; Oswald dossier forwarded to Warren Commission; Garrison investigation of JFK assassination; CIA chronology of memos received from Warren Commission; HSCA chronology, January-March 1978.

Box 13: Alphabetical files of individuals marked "completed" or "pending" based on 201 files.

Box 14: Primarily HSCA requests for name traces on individuals and organizations; some 201 files; interviews with POWs from Bay of Pigs; FBI and Immigration and Naturalization Service reports on Oswald.

Box 15: Alphabetical files based on CIA, State, and FBI on numerous individuals including Claire Booth Luce, Clay Shaw, Martin Luther King, and Coretta Scott King.

Box 16: Copies of 201 files; interview and transcripts relating to Mexico City activities of Oswald and the Mafia.

Box 17: JMWAVE cable; DCI cable traffic.

Box 18: HSCA chronology; Oswald 201 file; report on CIA performance.

Box 19: HSCA staff notes, taken at CIA. (File folders 2-5, 14, 18, 25, 28 and 34-35 missing. With HSCA records?)

Box 20: Follow-up requests from HSCA on name traces; handwritten notes of committee staff members on CIA 201 files; CIA surveillance of Soviet embassy in Mexico City; Oswald's activities in Mexico City; copies of staff interviews with CIA personnel (file folders 58-62, 65, 69-70, 73-74, 80, 83, 85-86, 88-92, 96, 101, 103 and 112 are missing, while folder 57 is empty. With HSCA records?)

Box 21: HSCA requests by JFK file number.

Box 22: HSCA staff notes, misc.

Box 23: HSCA staff notes: misc., including Helms's testimony in executive session.

Box 24: HSCA staff notes: misc., including Mexico City interviews and speculation about a dual CIA filing system re Oswald and Oswald's relationship to Agency.

Box 25: Committee staff notes on materials reviewed at CIA relating to Oswald and his possible connections with the CIA and his activities in Mexico City; a sanitized copy of the 1977 CIA report on the Church Committee findings; information relating to Cuban embassy officials in Mexico City, including Silvia Duran, Eusebio Lopez, and Alfredo Diaz.

Box 26: Documents re Oswald's Mexico City visit; DCI's appearance before Warren Commission; allegations of Oswald's connection with CIA.

Box 27: Agency file on Oswald, as sent to Warren Commission; Nosenko interrogation notes.

Box 28: HSCA files mixed in with FBI and CIA documents; investigation of Silvia Duran, 28 November 1963; numerous HSCA handwritten notes.

Box 29: Alphabetical file on individuals from various sources, including Guy Bannister, Clay Shaw, and David Ferrie.

Box 30: HSCA report on Cuba trip, 1978; handwritten notes on Oswald; Domestic Contact Division notes on Garrison investigation; and information on Nosenko.

Box 31: Administrative materials, correspondence between HSCA and CIA, index and file of HSCA material returned to DO.

BOx 32: Mexico City Station cables and dispatches.

Box 33: Cuban Mugbook and Mexico City Station traffic, October 1963-January 1964.

Box 34: HSCA files on George de Mohrenschildt; Cuban Mugbook; HSCA reading file; CIA relations with FBI and Warren Commission; Nosenko on Oswald; and Ruby's alleged travel to Cuba.

Box 35: Review of HSCA trip to Cuba and Mexico; HSCA report on Silvia Odio; report, "CIA Operations against Cuba prior to the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy on 23 November 1963;" and Senate Select Committee reports and comments.

Box 36: Review, what could Castro have known?; review of HSCA draft report; IG report on Cuban operations for 1960-64, for any bearing upon JFK assassination; Book V of Church Committee final report, with review by Agency of provocation theory (charges of Agency cover-up of Cuban operations); E. Howard Hunt file; Mexico City/Havana flights; Win Scott; AMTRUNK; Oswald contacts with Soviet and Cuban embassies, Mexico City; CIA relations with FBI and Warren Commission; Alpha 66; photo of unidentified man, Mexico City; cable traffic, AMLASH, AMWHIP; Mafia plotting; Jack Ruby/Cuba; QJWIN, ZRRIFLE.

Box 37; Information relating to Cuban exile activities against Castro, such as the Torriente Group and Alpha 66; name trace on E. Howard Hunt; and information relating to the Garrison investigation.

Box 38: Alphabetical files, including Hemming, Luce, Sturgis, Roselli, James McCord, and Nosenko; file on U-2 overflights from Japan; DDS&T report on photos of unknown man.

Box 39: Photo comparisons of E. Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis with tramps arrested in Dallas on day of JFK assassination; chart of frames from the Zapruder film showing the actual assassination.

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Box 39: Photo comparisons of E. Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis with tramps arrested in Dallas on day of JFK assassination; chart of frames from the Zapruder film showing the actual assassination.

Box 40: Security files (including record of those files inadvertantly destroyed).

Box 41: Security files (alphabetical), including Lucien Conein; also material on Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

Box 42: Name traces from Office of Security files; Garrison investigation information; a copy of a manuscript, "The Kennedy Conspiracy: An Uncommissioned Report on the Jim Garrison Investigation;" copies of material relating to Oswald shown to committee staff at CIA.

Box 43: Security files (some missing, inadvertantly destroyed). Files present include that of Martin Luther King.

Box 44: Security files.

Box 45: Security files, including those of David Atlee Phillips and Clay Shaw.

Box 46: HSCA requests for information relating to Frank Sturgis, Clay Shaw, and Watergate; information relating to JMWAVE and the Miami Station; FBI reports on left-wing and racial unrest in U.S.

Box 47: Security files, mostly newspaper clippings; list of notes by HSCA staff member; Oswald security materal; newspaper articles on Oswald; unsanitized material released in sanitized form via FOIA from Oswald material.

Box 48: Security files, including Tokyo Position Control Register (1960-64); HSCA staff notes reviewed by OS; HSCA staff review at headquarters of selected OS files (including Roselli and Giancana), plus other name traces through OS, including Gerald P. Hemming.

Box 49: Name trace requests; transcripts of interviews of CIA personnel; executive session transcript of a Senate Armed Services Committee meeting, 21 November 1973, regarding CIA assassination plots; CIA plans to assassinate Castro; and the Mafia/CIA connection in attempts to assassinate Castro.

Box 50: HSCA requests by date; Oswald chronology; draft copy of Hornbeck Report.

Box 51: Numerous HSCA requests and individual files; Jack Ruby file as well as Hemming, Hall, Pawley, M. L. King, and others.

Box 52: HSCA reviews by date; Cuban Counter-revolutionary Handbook, 1962 & 1964; photos of unkown man; NPIC analysis of Zapruder film, and Hoch memorandum.

Box 53: HSCA request log and priority response list; copy of manuscript, "Castro's Red Hot Hell": information relating to HSCA leaks, guidelines, procedures, clearances, and secrecy agreements.

Box 54: HSCA staff notes.

Box 55: HSCA staff notes; HSCA chronologies, 1953-77.

Box 56: FBI reports on racial violence in the U.S. in 1967 and the Black Power movement and Martin Luther King; deposition material, but not the actual depositions, of Ray Rocca, John McCone, Richard Helms, and David Phillips.

Box 57: Mexico City Station file, 1959-68; correspondence concerning HSCA visit to Mexico; HSCA receipts, testimony, etc.; 1975 report on unidentified man at Cuban embassy; HSCA request for JMWAVE traffic.

Box 58: IG report on Church Committee final report, book V; annex to task force report (AMLASH); DDCI testimony before committee (Dec. 1978); HSCA final report (summary) and correspondence; internal DO memos re Warren Commission (what to tell it re Cuban operations?); correspondence/memos re HSCA interviews and depositions from Win Scott, Golitzyn, Shevchenko, McCone, Nosenko (for most part, interviews and depositions themselves not here).

Box 59: HSCA press releases and correspondence.

Box 60: Nosenko material, including polygraph transcripts; misc. HSCA memos; James J. Angleton material, 1977-78.

Box 61: Copies of House Select Committee draft reports and CIA comments relating to Cuban exiles and their activities against Castro, Silvia Duran, AMLASH, and Oswald's activities in Mexico City.

Box 62: HSCA requests; photo surveillance around Cuban embassy in Mexico City; CIA/HSCA defector study; various interviews about JFK's death.

Box 63: Warren Commission reports on Oswald; a House report on Oswald's activities in New Orleans; CIA plots to assassinate Castro; and a folder on Ray Rocca's testimony before the Rockefeller Commission (his testimony is not present in the folder); and information relating to the disposition of CIA materials relating to the House investigation.

Box 64: Microfilm

History Staff reviewed Reels for which there were no description. These were Reels 46, 53-56, 59, 60-62, and 65-71. History Staff also sampled Reels 1, 14, 18, 22, 24, 26, 30, 31, and 44. Reels reviewed, as follows:

Reel 1: CIA Security files in alphabetical order, containing background investigation results, memos, passport applications.

Reel 14: CIA Security files, in alphabetical order.

Reel 18: True name dossier from Office of Security files; list of U.S. defectors to Soviet Bloc; material on WIROGUE and the Congo; Cuban exile operations to infiltrate men into Cuba.

Reel 22: AMMUG; LIEMPTY; LILYRIC; LINCHPIN; LIENVOY (Mexico City surveillance activities of the Cuban and Soviet embassies in Mexico City.

Reel 24: Photo surveillance of Cuban embassy in Mexico City, August & November 1963; photo surveillance of USSR embassy in Mexico City, July-December 1963; Garrison investigation articles and CIA correspondence.

Reel 26: Extensive file on Cuban exile groups in U.S. receiving CIA help; DRE, Liberation Army of Cuba.

Reel 30: Mexico City Station files; CIA personnel records; Mexico City message traffic relating to Silvia Duran; photos of individuals entering or leaving the Soviet embassy and the Cuban consulate in Mexico City; press accounts of Garrison trial of Clay Shaw.

Reel 31: Oswald diary; Warren Commission file numbers and inventory; index of Mexico City traffic; Mexico City chronology; 1975 CIA report on unidentified man; 1975 CIA report on Cuba-JFK connection; list of "soft files" at beginning of microfilm.

Reel 44: Warren Commission documents relating to Oswald; Ambassador Thomas Mann's meeting with the Commission staff in Mexico City in 1964; Helms affidavit, 1964; Jack Ruby; Marina Oswald; Clay Shaw; and Jim Garrison.

Reel 46: Nosenko files; Mexico City Station chronological file; and a list of all station despatches from 10/15/63 to 11/27/63 (20 despatches missing).

Reel 53: CIA Security/201 files in alphabetical order.

Reel 54: CIA Security/201 files; maps of Cuba; reports on Mexican/Cuban activities.

Reel 55: CIA Security files.

Reel 56: CIA Security files.

Reel 59: CIA Personnel files (including fitness reports).

Reel 60: CIA Personnel files.

Reel 61: Nosenko interrogation: information relating to Golitsyn; Cuban exile groups and their anti-Castro activities; William Pawley's anti-Castro activities.

Reel 62: CIA Nosenko interrogation transcripts; Cuban Revolutionary Council progress reports, March-April 1963; list of Cuban consulate employees worldwide; FBI report on Cuban government in exile in NYC; monthly expenditures of Cuban Revolutionary Council (CRC).

Reel 65: Cuban exile organizations such as the Cuban Revolutionary Council (CRC), Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Front (CDRF), Judicatura Cuban Democratica, and the 30 November Movement.

Reel 66: AMBUD file on CRC, monthly reports, statement of expenses, proposed programs and projects, budget projections and accounting statements of the Council.

Reel 67: AMBUD (Col. Johnson) file; CRC budget and programs, documents relating to the coordination problems within and between Cuban exile groups.

Reel 68: Col. Johnson Working File; weekly summary reports; the underground in Cuba; CRC activities and position papers; translations of Council documents; biographic information on CRC leaders Dr. Miro Cardona and Tony Varona.

Reel 69: CRC and the Cuban exile community; meeting in San Jose and around Latin America--selection of delegates, expenses, and recruitment efforts.

Reel 70: CRC finances; Brigade 2506; Juan Bosch interview in Dominican Republic with Cuban exiles; and information relating to CRC delegates to various Latin American governments.

Reel 71: Cuban organizations; photos of Mexican embassy entrance.

Reel 72: Photos of Mexican embassy entrance.

Oswald 201 File

Box 1: mostly FBI interviews/investigation notes; items sent by FBI to CIA prior to JFK assassination regarding Oswald's activities in New Orleans; State Department correspondence regarding Oswald defection and return; Silvia Duran material; newspaper articles; Mexico City Station files; and other material.

Box 2: FBI background investigation of Oswald and his wife Marina's activities while in the Soviet Union.

Box 3: FBI background investigation of Oswald activities in New Orleans; FBI interviews of Marina Oswald; information relating to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee; State Department actions regarding Oswald's passport and visa applications; FBI tracing of weapons connected with Oswald; information on Jack Ruby; and a tape of the radio debate in which Oswald participated in August 1963.

Box 4: FBI reports on Oswald; FBI interviews with Oswald and Marina after the assassination; copy of Cuban government's protest to Mexican authorities over the arrest and treatment of Silvia Duran; and an index to the FBI reports is included in the box.

Box 5: FBI investigation of the assassination (3 vols.); a copy of Oswald's diary while he was in Moscow; biographic material on Marina Oswald; a copy of Oswald's chronology while in the Soviet Union; and a copy of the questions for the Soviet government composed by CIA officials.

Box 6: Oswald chronology; biography of Marina Oswald; Warren Commission correspondence; name traces of those who appear in Oswald diary; Warren Commission correspondence; Oswald Mexico trip; Oswald address book; Silvia Duran Mexican interrogation; newspaper clippings.

Box 7: FBI reports on Oswald; Nosenko interviews; photos of Oswald in Minsk; list of Oswald's apartment articles; and a name list of CIA traces for the Warren Commission.

Box 8: Photos shown to Marina Oswald for ID purposes; SR/CI Studies for the Warren Commission; continuing FBI investigation, Dallas area; interview with Marina; Oswald/Ruby alleged association; attachments to Oswald chronology in USSR.

Box 9: Copy of Marina Oswald's notebook with addresses; list of items prepared by CI on Oswald care for the Warren Commission;

Oswald's contacts in the Soviet Union; and an FBI report on Oswald's activities in Mexico; a CIA brief for presentation to the Warren Commission on Oswald; Soviet Government documents relating to Oswald; and a translation of a Portuguese book, A Conspiracao.

Box 10: FBI investigations; Nosenko material; anti-Castro activities in U.S.; CIA report of Oswald in Mexico City; CIA report on Oswald defection; CIA report of Oswald as Kennedy murderer; assorted FBI items.

Box 11: Bulky material, mostly SR/CI Studies for Warren Commission; FBI reports; Marina Oswald material; Oswald Cuban application; USSR radio and newspaper traffic; Silvia Duran interview; foreign press reaction to JFK assassination and Warren Commission report; photos of unidentified man in Mexico City; Bernard Fensterwald FOIA case; assorted CIA and FBI material.

Box 12: Warren Commission Log Book from National Archives; master list of Warren Commission correspondence and exhibits from National Archives; and copies of FBI reports on the assassination.

Box 13: HTLINGUAL intercepts (Russian language with some translations); SE soft file on Oswald; Nosenko information on other Soviet defectors.

Box 14: Copies of CIA documents still classified in the Warren Commission records held at the National Archives; Oswald's activities in the Soviet Union; information relating to Gilberto Alvarado "Source D", Silvia Duran, and Oswald in Mexico; transcripts of telephone intercepts from the Mexico City Station.

Box 15: CIA-Warren Commission released materials, 1964; background on Jack Ruby, Oswald; Oswald's Soviet medical record; National Archives list of status of CIA documents in Warren Commission records, 1967; Soviet press reaction to assassination; internal memoranda and other records of the Warren Commission; transcript of executive session of the Warren Commission; Oswald's Mexico trip, Soviet defection; Oswald's alleged CIA connections; Warren Commission material; "kook" cases; follow-up on numerous "leads"; Helms's file on Oswald and Warren Commission documents (as of January 1964).

Box 16: Garrison investigation, newspaper clippings, and other reports; Warren Commission memos.

Mexico City Station files (8 bulky files)

(Considered part of the Oswald 201 file; to be placed in box within Oswald's 201 file)

Mexico Station files on Oswald (P-files); Oswald chronology; newspaper clippings; FBI report on Oswald in Mexico city; misc. material on Oswald in Mexico; Garrison investigation material (mostly newspaper clippings); Warren Commission testimony.

HSCA Miscellaneous Folders (16 folders)

(These file folders, which are unaccessioned at present, will be placed within HSCA collection, Job No. 80-T01357A)

HSCA requests; information on Oswald in USSR; Marina Oswald; documents on Roselli and Giancana.

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NOTES ON TRANSFER TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
AND DECLASSIFICATION OF CIA RECORDS

10 February 1992

1. Transfer CIA would transfer documents under their existing classification to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in much the same way that it already transfers declassified documents. Using a NARA Form 258, the usual transfer document, CIA would note that the documents to be transferred are classfied. These records would then go into secure NARA vaults, where they would be accessible only to archivists with appropriate security clearances. Codeword documents would go into a compartmented vault under the direct control of the Records Declassification Division, to be processed only by reviewers with the necessary SCI access approvals.

2. Classification Any transfer of CIA records to NARA under existing classification would provide continuing security protection for these documents consistent with Agency standards. In accordance with statutory guidelines, NARA must ensure the confidentiality of investigatory sources and the proper protection of personal privacy as well as national security information, including intelligence sources and methods.

3. Declassification Declassification guidelines would be a matter for negotiation between the CIA and NARA. Some agencies (e.g. the Department of Defense) give general guidance, while others (e.g. the Department of State) offer more specific guidelines. Although specific guidelines require more effort to develop, NARA prefers them to more general guidelines, since under specific instructions NARA's reviewers find less need for referral back to the donor agency.

4. Funding and Resources Funding and resources would also be matter for negotiation between the Agency and NARA. The Department of State and the Agency for International Development (AID), for example, have funded a certain number of reviewer positions, while NARA funds all overseer positions (both reviewers and overseers are NARA employees). For consistency and quality control NARA does two reviews for State and AID. State's own staff members then do a final quality check--in effect a third review--of the product at NARA. State and AID consider their review guidelines to be draft guidance until they review the

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Historical Review Program Policy and Resources
Report to the DCI

10 February 1992

The Historical Review Program (HRP) has its origins in a 1983 agreement between DCI William Casey and Senator David Durenberger, then SSCI Chairman, which played an important role in bringing about the passage of the CIA Information Act of 1984. At the request of Congress, and with CIA's earlier declassification of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) records as precedent, the Agency in May 1985 formally established this voluntary systematic review program to declassify and transfer selected historically significant CIA records to the National Archives. The Classification Review Branch in IPCRD/OIT/DA, with the advice and support of the History Staff in CSI/OTE/DA, coordinates with Agency components to declassify records while assuring the security of documents that still require protection. Although the History Staff provides the HRP with guidance and liaison with the outside historical community, and closely monitors the program's progress, OIT's Classification Review Branch is alone responsible for the actual records review process.

As Congress directed in the CIA Information Act of 1984, a panel of consultants, including the Archivist of the United States, the Librarian of Congress, and three distinguished historians, helped CIA establish the HRP in 1985. This panel, which has returned in 1987 and 1990 to monitor the program's progress and report to the DCI and Congress on it, is due to meet again in 1992.

HRP Declassification Resources and Results, 1991: In 1991 OIT's Information, Privacy and Classification Review Division devoted three staff employees and five part-time annuitants to the Historical Review Program (HRP). The figures for total Agency manpower allocated to the HRP (including component review officers) are not available, but in 1991 IP&CRD devoted approximately six man-years to historical review, while the CIA History Staff allocated the equivalent of one man-year. This effort resulted in the declassification and transfer to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) of about 10,000 pages of CIA History Staff Source Collection records. These were mostly source documents cited in the only other CIA documents transferred to NARA since the HRP's inception in 1985, two sanitized CIA History Staff studies, a volume of about 1000 pages transferred in 1989, and a volume

of about 750 pages transferred in 1990. (In 1990 HRP also sent NARA a collection of about 134,000 pages on "international communism," gathered over several decades by a State official and passed on to CIA by State around 1960.)

As Senator Durenberger had promised DCI Casey, Congress provided CIA with ten additional positions in FY86 to support the new Historical Review Program. Eight of these positions were allocated to the Classification Review Branch, and two to the History Staff. The History Staff has since lost one of these two positions, while, as indicated above, IP&CRD now devotes approximately six man-years to the Historical Review Program.

HRP Problems: Although the HRP is understaffed, lack of resources is not the principal reason for its meager record of declassification. To an important degree, the problem is structural, in the nature of the US Government's system for classifying, declassifying and safeguarding national security information, and in the rigidity of CIA's present policies and procedures for applying this system. It is this regimen that makes it virtually impossible for the Historical Review Program--in spite of commitment, hard work and good will--to declassify significant numbers of records.

In the first place, CIA has developed complex and multi-tiered declassification procedures, which typically require a document to be reviewed by several components in a lengthy, labor-intensive, and almost always unproductive process. This system encourages extreme caution by requiring the close review of each individual document by a succession of reviewers representing a variety of interests.

Secondly, as a secret intelligence organization CIA has always maintained a pervasive secrecy about almost all of its work and organization. CIA works hard to infuse its employees with the high level of security consciousness that is necessary for their work. The information in CIA's records (especially with respect to sources and methods) typically requires much more classification protection, and for far longer, than the records of most other agencies. These traditional imperatives have formed an organizational culture that recoils at the prospect of opening CIA's classified records to the public. There is no CIA constituency for greater declassification.

Thirdly, the Freedom of Information Act dominates CIA's (and all Federal agencies') declassification procedures. Intended originally to declassify current information for journalists, the FOIA is perhaps the most inefficient and

expensive method that could be devised for declassifying records for historians. The FOIA's categories of exempted material have produced a vast body of case law that constantly grows in size and complexity. This produces an adversary system in which agencies--and individual reviewers--tend to withhold as much as the law in its most generous interpretation allows. This adversary system sets the tone for all of CIA's declassification programs, even including the Historical Review Program.

Roadblocks: The Historical Review Program has run into the following specific roadblocks, which have presented virtually insurmountable barriers to the HRP's efforts to declassify historically significant groups of older CIA records:

1. Mosaic Effect: Although the HRP from the beginning especially sought to declassify finished intelligence in CIA's oldest records, in August 1985 the Directorate of Intelligence and the National Intelligence Council reported that while individual copies of serial publications or finished intelligence could be satisfactorily sanitized for release, a complete set for any given block of time would or could reveal too much about CIA's intelligence interests, concerns and capabilities. This was held to be true for any of the serialized publications produced by the DI. This view that individually declassified documents collectively become classified is usually referred to as the "mosaic effect." This position has up to the present precluded the review of any runs of such publications as National Intelligence Estimates.

2. Official Disclosure: The contrast between the narrow limits of "official disclosure" and former CIA officers' wide latitude (under the Publication Review Board's first amendment regime) to talk and write about Agency programs and activities, makes it impossible to declassify information about activities and events that have been widely, if unofficially, disclosed by former DCIs and other retired CIA officers. In spite of Kim Roosevelt's book describing CIA's role in the 1953 Iran Coup, CIA's unwillingness to acknowledge its part in this event led to the flap over the gaps in the Department of State's Foreign Relations volume on Iran, 1952-54, which in turn led to new legislation, HR 1415, whose consequences for CIA we discuss elsewhere.

3. Specific Presence Abroad: The Agency's policy against officially acknowledging any specific presence abroad (as

for example, the London Station) puts virtually all records concerning foreign intelligence collection and covert action operations off limits for HRP declassification.

Bold steps are needed to put life into the HRP, to permit CIA to declassify substantial amounts of its historical records, especially finished intelligence reports, and to open them to the public at the National Archives. In my view, the following steps would begin the march.

Thirty-Year Rule: The Historical Review Program needs a specific point at which it can expect to take responsibility for the systematic declassification review of Agency records. Congress' new HR 1415 legislation gives the Department of State a 30-year deadline, by providing that (except for four categories of exempted records) "each classified record of permanent historical value...shall be declassified not later than 30 years after the record was prepared," transferred to NARA, and made available for public inspection and copying. For the HRP, a rolling 30-year line would govern several features in its organization and responsibilities:

1. Thirty years after a document was created, the authority for its declassification should revert from its originating office to the Director of Central Intelligence.

2. At this 30-year point all documents would become the responsibility of the Historical Review Program, which would be administered by a Review Group operating under the DCI's declassification authority, and supervised by the Chief, History Staff.

3. This Review Group would be staffed with sufficient experienced senior reviewers to make final declassification decisions on all documents 30 years old and older without referral to the originating office. For this reason the Review Group should work independently of the deputy directorates' and independent offices' review officers, who would continue to handle all non-HRP--i.e. FOIA, Privacy Act and EO 12356--declassification review. Members of the existing Historical Review Section, CRB/IP&CRD/OIT/DA, could form the core of the new Review Group, which should have at least five staff employees and six part-time annuitants.

4. This Review Group would be attached to and near the CIA History Staff. Its Chief Reviewer would report to the Chief, History Staff, who would be responsible to the DCI for the Historical Review Program.

5. The Historical Review Program should use Agency-wide consultations to develop guidelines for the DCI's approval to acknowledge officially (as of 30 years earlier) cases of specific CIA presence abroad, programs, and activities that are widely known from unofficial disclosure.

6. The Historical Review Program should also develop special guidelines for the declassification review of National Intelligence Council estimates, the best-known finished intelligence, that are 15 years old or older. Standard guidelines should be developed to sanitize estimates by routine deletions to avoid identifying technical systems and codeword controls. There should be a strong presumption for disclosure, so that estimates would be declassified at 15 years unless a compelling case, e.g. for damage to foreign relations, could be made.

The steps outlined above only sketch the kind of new Review Group working under the History Staff that will be necessary to make the Historical Review Program the channel for the systematic declassification of CIA's older records that DCI Casey promised in his October 1983 agreement with Senator Durenberger. To succeed it will need enterprising leadership, substantial new resources, and a willingness to break out of established patterns. But above all it will need strong and direct support from the DCI.

/s/ J. Kenneth McDonald

J. Kenneth McDonald
Chief, CIA History Staff